

## ABOUT THAT THEORY THAT IT RAINS MORE NOW THAN FORMERLY

Is the annual rainfall in northern Arizona increasing?

Has Mother Nature taken it into her kindly old head to make up for our booze drought in a plentitude of rain? Knowing that we have got to drink water all the time after this, has she decided to see to it that we always have a plentiful supply?

Some of our oldest citizens have been insisting of late that our seasons are increasing in wetness. Indeed, some of them were so positive about it that The Sun man decided to look into the matter, and, after applying most perspicacious investigation, to report the facts to you.

Naturally, the first source of information sought was the weather man, George Herrington. In our most persuasive manner we tried to tempt him to admit, or at least encourage our hope, that the annual rainfall is increasing.

Mr. Herrington was reluctant to admit that there is any large ground for the belief, but did say that there is one scientific and one unscientific reason for encouragement. The former has to do with the vast irrigation projects in this state. There are at least 200,000 acres in the Salt River Valley now under irrigation and this is only a small part of the total irrigated acreage in the state. The more irrigated surface there is, the more evaporation, and this probably tends toward greater rainfall in both the irrigated and adjacent territory.

The unscientific reason—at least, it is a theory that has as yet been unconfirmed by science—is the belief, firmly held by many, and particularly by the farmers in Kansas, that rainfall follows the plow. There seems to be some foundation for this. In Kansas, they assert, that as the tide of tillage has moved westward through the state the rains have been more frequent and copious.

A few years ago western Kansas was all starved out. They claim that they are now getting more rains.

The average rainfall here during the last 21 years has been 22.95 inches. There has been very little variation during that time, and though the rains in some years have come at different times than in other years, yet the totals for the various years have been very nearly the same.

The rainfall during July of this year was very much above normal. The normal rate is less than two inches, but last month it was 7½ inches. This was not our biggest July record, though, for a few years ago we had 8 inches in July.

Some of the old-timers, in support of their theory that there is more rain, now point to the fact that several years ago many of our lakes were dry. Mormon Lake was very low.

The lakes have been much higher for several years now, and the water in Mormon Lake stays up close to the rim of trees on its bank. But, Mr. Herrington says, when the water in Mormon Lake was so low careful search failed to show remains of any trees inside the present rim of trees, and, as the latter are of a variety that grow only next to water the evidence proves that Mormon Lake's present level is about the same as it was 50 or more years ago.

The total evaporation from the earth's surface is just about the same each year. Therefore, the same amount of water drops back to earth each year. Changes in local conditions may affect the rainfall in certain localities, but where one locality gets more than usual in a year, some other locality gets less.

Facts seem to have pretty much discredited the theory that was hammered into us so strenuously a few years ago that deforestation would decrease rainfall and produce an arid condition in sections previously well blessed with rains. Deforestation does increase the rapidity of drainage and evaporation from the cut-off regions, but so far the threatened poverty in rainfall has not materialized.

Mr. Herrington believes there is nothing to the theory some of our people have that our periods of rain and drought run in regular cycles, and that each can be predicted with certainty in accordance with their past performances. He says that the cross sections of our big pines, some of which were here when Columbus landed in America, prove that there is nothing to the cycle theory, the rings showing a pretty even growth, with no evidence whatever that they have come through regularly alternating drought and wet periods.

Prof. Douglas, of Tucson, who not long ago studied the cross-sections of timbers taken from the cliff dwellings, arrived at the same belief. His main intent was to learn from this old wood whether there was more rain in the time of the cliff dwellers than now, but he found that conditions were the same then as now. Not only was the wood of that time of the same varieties as now, but the rings showed the same rate of growth.

Therefore, a summary of all the facts seems to show that our annual rainfall does and will remain pretty much the same as in years gone by except that there probably is a tendency toward increase because of the increase in irrigated territory, and, consequently in evaporation; and that there may possibly be an increase induced by the increase in soil cultivation.

So there, old-timers, if there is a crumb of comfort for you in the above, go to it.

### NO TAXICABS IN ROME

The horse in Rome has not vacated his position to make room for the motor car. There are still thousands of horse-drawn cabs operating in Rome, while there is not a single taxicab.

Two reasons are given for the equine superiority: First, there are three thousand cab drivers in Rome who exercise a considerable influence in the municipal elections of Rome, and as a consequence no motor vehicle concessions are granted. The politicians know that in order to retain these three thousand votes they must be faithful to the horse and an enemy to the "flivver."

Besides the supply of gasoline in Italy is not large, and to insure enough for the military needs it was found absolutely necessary to discourage as much private motor vehicle traffic as possible.

### SENATORIAL COURTESY

"What is senatorial courtesy?" "Senatorial courtesy," replied Senator Sorghum, "consists largely in remaining silent so ostentatiously that anybody can guess what unpleasant things you must be thinking about."

### FAR FROM IT

"Is your husband a self-made man?" "Naw; I taught him to dance, to golf and all he knows about bridge."

The Coconino Sun for stationery.

## GOVERNOR CAMPBELL MAKES VISIT HERE

Governor Thomas E. Campbell, accompanied by Mrs. Campbell and Daniel Campbell, father of the governor, arrived in Flagstaff last Saturday evening from Jerome, having negotiated their way across country by auto coming up the Schnebly Hill out of Sedona.

Governor and Mrs. Campbell attended the "stunt" night at the Normal and addressed the student body and made a short inspection of conditions there, meeting with President Creager and the trustees of the school.

Sunday morning he had an interesting meeting with a couple of ladies who had come across the country to importune him to call an extra session of the legislature in order to ratify the woman's suffrage amendment. While he did not make it known what action he would take in the matter, it is believed that no such action will be taken since the women of Arizona have the right to vote and the expense to the state would be too great to call an extra session for that one purpose only.

The governor and party left shortly after lunch for Winslow with the intention of visiting Holbrook, Cooley, and other places in the northeastern part of the state, inspecting roads and other conditions.

### CURIOUS FACTS ABOUT PIGMIES

A most interesting puzzle to anthropologists are the pigmies. Apparently of a single racial stock, they are scattered over many parts of the world, and nobody can give a plausible guess as to how their distribution was accomplished.

Wherever found they seem to be the earliest people—veritable aborigines—and all of them are much alike physically, though different somewhat in complexion. They are suspected to be more ancient than any other race now surviving on the globe.

To this race belong the so-called "monkey men" of the mountainous interior of India. Likewise the pot-bellied natives of the Andaman Islands, in the Bengal Gulf, who are said to "look like babies all their lives." These latter wear their hair in frizzly tufts and adorn themselves with necklaces made from the bones and teeth of defunct relatives.

In Madagascar are the Behosy, black dwarfs, who when pursued jump from tree to tree like monkeys. They are so timid that sometimes they die of fright when captured.

In Ceylon are found the Veddahs, of whom not more than 2,000 are now left alive. Few of them are able to count up to three. They are of the same pigmy race, and unquestionably they were very anciently a numerous people, inhabiting that island when visited by the earliest of prehistoric explorers.

The bones of pigmy people are very plentifully found on the island of Formosa, where doubtless the last of them were wiped out by the Malays some centuries ago.

Like all of the great apes and minor monkey tribes, the pigmies everywhere are tropical residents. The stature of the men is about six inches over four feet, and the women are four or five inches shorter. They go all but naked, have, as a rule, no permanent dwellings, sow no seed and grow no crops.

The African pigmies are fierce and warlike, and each little fighting man carries at his belt a bottle of poison (for arrows) so deadly that the very slightest wound from a weapon envenomed with it will kill a man. Col. Roosevelt, while on his famous hunting trip, sent some of these arrows to the Smithsonian Institute, with a tag attached suggesting carefulness in handling them.

These dwarfs build dome-shaped houses in a circle, the chief's residence in the center, and at a distance of one hundred yards from the village a sentry box big enough to hold two little men is placed on every path, with a doorway looking up the trail.

### BAKER BLOCKED EFFORT AT ARMY COURT REFORM

Lieut. Col. Samuel T. Ansell, former acting judge advocate general of the army, who has made a great fight to have the rules with regard to trials by court martial reformed, has handed his resignation to Secretary Baker.

In the movement to make the court martial procedure of the army more liberal and enlightened, Lieut. Col. Ansell has been a prominent figure. His efforts have to a large extent been blocked by Secretary Baker and high officers of the judge advocate's department.

The work of Lieut. Col. Ansell, however, has not been without important results. A number of members of Congress are determined to force an overhauling of the law with relation to courts-martial.

### ADAMANT

"I've just been having a heart-to-heart talk with my doctor," remarked Mr. Jagsby.

"Did he give you any encouragement?"

"None whatever. A man might be bitten by all the rattlesnakes in this county and he would not be able to get a prescription for liquor out of that fellow!"

### HOME ARMY'S DECORATIONS

"Have you any war souvenirs?" "A whole drawer full," replied Mr. Grabcohn.

"Picked up on the battlefield." "No, indeed. They are buttons, and badges, and tags that were affixed to me by members of the fair sex for contributing of my hard-earned substance to help make the world safe for democracy."

### FRESH NEED

Old Mistress: "I suppose you have to work hard since your husband died?" Mrs. Darke: "Yas; Ah's married again."

### 15 STUDY ARCHAEOLOGY AT NAVAJO MOUNTAINS

Dean Byron N. Cummings of the University of Arizona, is conducting a summer class in archaeology at the foot of the Navajo mountains. There are 15 in the class.

Students include: Misses Blanche J. Smith, Mary Gene Smith, Alfred Wilson and Fred Bohnert, of Phoenix; H. A. Scott (geologist), P. E. Vickery (high-school teacher), and Miss Violet Ruben, of Globe; Miss Ruth Moles, Silverbell; Miss Pauline Moles, Warrensburg, Mo.; J. H. Ferris (conchologist), of Joliet, Ill.; W. N. Clute (botanist), Chicago; Miss Maybelle Davis, Fillmore, Cal.; Edith Newman, Bisbee; Howard Benedict, Tombstone; Franklin Walker, Flagstaff.

### CLAIMS COMPENSATION ACT UNCONSTITUTIONAL

The Arizona compensation act is contrary to the provisions of the fourteenth amendment to the United States constitution, is the contention brought out in a case which reached the supreme court Saturday on appeal. The action is that of J. A. George, administrator of the estate of Mart R. Smith against the Tom Reed Gold Mines Co. The appeal, which came up from Mohave county, was taken by the defendant. A verdict was granted in the Mohave county court of \$6,000 in favor of the estate.

### CUMULATIVE DESIRES

"Glipping is thinking of buying a new motor car. He can't be happy, it seems, with less than three machines."

"Well, he has the money to indulge in that kind of extravagance." "To be sure. I was just thinking about the days when Glipping was poor. He used to say the height of his ambition was to be able to own two pairs of suspenders at the same time."

### SUBSTITUTE WANTED

"What's good for a black eye, Bill?" "Oh, a small piece of raw beef-steak."

"Yes, but supposing yer ain't no bloomin' millionaire?"

### FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS

Farmer: "Hi, there! What are you doing up in my cherry tree?" Pilfering Pete: "Dere's a notice down dere to keep off de grass."

### FAST WORK

"She was a farmerette?" "For a few weeks only." "A rather brief experience." "It was long enough. She married the man who owned the farm."

### BELIEF ONLY

"I always believe in saving, something for a rainy day." "How much have you saved?" "I haven't saved anything, but I believe in it."

### HOUSE WARMING OVER AT ASH FORK

The Northern Arizona Commercial Co., of Ash Fork, Ariz., will give a dance and general housewarming in its handsome new \$20,000 store building on Saturday evening, August 16, 1919. The best orchestra obtainable has been engaged. There will be refreshments for all and flowers for the ladies.

All are cordially invited to attend, and no effort will be spared to make this the most enjoyable event of the season.

The stockholders of the company are Chas. E. Burton, prominent stockman, president; F. S. Dickerson, vice president; Winchester Dickerson, secretary and treasurer, and are among the most progressive business men of the state.

It is hoped that a large gathering from Flagstaff, Williams and Prescott will be present to enjoy the opening.

### DISAPPEARING HAIR

"I think the baby has your hair, ma'am," said the new nurse, looking pleasantly at her mistress. "Gracious!" exclaimed the lady, glancing up from the novel. "Run into the nursery and take it away from her. She will ruin it."

### BAUMERT'S ALERTNESS FINDS \$5,000 FOR STATE

Another \$5,000 has been added to the state treasury through the action of Secretary Andrew Baumert, of the state board of directors in transferring the residue of an old impressed fund to the funds of the state. The money in question represents what was left of an appropriation for a mining building at the state fair, and will be credited to that account. Originally the old commission of state institutions had the handling of this impressed fund.

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